



## PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Pearl Harbor Shipyarders Earn Naval Postgraduate School Certification**

**By Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs**

**PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii** – Six Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard employees recently earned Electric Ship Power Systems (ESPS) certificates from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, Calif., after completing an arduous year of study.

All had enrolled in July 2008 in the distance learning program, and successfully completed the requirements for the certificate in July 2009. This represented a 100 percent completion rate for Shipyard personnel enrolled in the program.

Completing the demanding course were nuclear engineers Michael A. Hirakami and Chad Kaanoi of the Nuclear Engineering and Planning Department; and electrical engineers Nicholas C. Kalnins, Erich Kimoto, Lori Sakai, and Jonathan J. Vannatta of the Engineering and Planning Department.

“These students stuck with attending each course for four consecutive quarters, while at the same time working full-time,” said Dr. Monique P. Fargues, NPS associate chair for student programs. “This is not an easy task and it reflects highly on their level of dedication.”

The certification required the Shipyarders to take four classes on advanced electronics theory. They were allowed four hours every two days to participate in videoconferences and study.

“These were graduate-level courses,” Kalnins said. “The first month, it took a lot of work to get up to speed.”

Vannatta said, “The hardest part was managing work and school.” Sakai agreed, “It was pretty difficult. It was kind of a struggle.” Job demands often meant the students had to study on their own time, she said.

Although earning the certification was a challenge, Sakai said the knowledge gained “will help us better understand troubleshooting on the new *Virginia*-class (submarines).”

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,700. It has an operating budget of \$620 million, of which more than \$390 million is payroll for civilian employees. The Shipyard, strategically located in the Pacific Ocean, is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy’s surface ships and submarines.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, visit <http://www.phnsy.navy.mil>.